

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE



**OFFICIAL WARNING**  
**VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

CASE NUMBER:  
TN140083-AC

VIOLATOR:  
Steve Heitmiller

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code):  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following violation(s) of Federal Regulations:

**Date of Violation: August 27, 2011**

**15 U.S.C. § 1824(7) Unlawful Acts**

“The showing or exhibiting at a horse show or horse exhibition; the selling or auctioning at a horse sale or auction; the allowing to be shown, exhibited, or sold at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction; the entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition; or offering for sale at a horse sale or auction, any horse which is wearing or bearing any equipment, device, paraphernalia, or substance which the Secretary by regulation under Section 1828 of this title prohibits to prevent the soring of horses.”

**Date of Violation: August 27, 2011**

**9 C.F.R. § 11.2(c) Prohibition concerning exhibitors – Substances**

“All substances are prohibited on the extremities above the hoof of any Tennessee Walking Horse or racking horse while being shown, exhibited, or offered for sale at any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, except lubricants such as glycerine, petrolatum, and mineral oil, or mixtures thereof....”

Steve Heitmiller entered, for the purpose of showing, a horse, “The Hula Bowl,” in the 73rd Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee, which tested positive for Benzocaine, Lidocaine, o-aminoazotoluene, Cholesterol, and multiple glycols.

**Date of Violation: August 28, 2011**

**15 U.S.C. § 1824(7) Unlawful Acts**

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offering for sale at a horse sale or auction, any horse which is wearing or bearing any equipment, device, paraphernalia, or substance which the Secretary by regulation under Section 1828 of this title prohibits to prevent the soring of horses.”

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Steve Heitmiller entered, for the purpose of showing, a horse, “Limestone Lucy,” in the 73rd Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee, which tested positive for Isopropyl Myristate, Lidocaine, Sulfur, and Cholesterol.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) created federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the violation(s) described above. Any further violation of these federal regulations may result in the assessment of a civil penalty, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions. If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

**APHIS OFFICIAL (Name):**

Bernadette Juarez

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**4700 River Road, Unit 85  
Riverdale, MD 20737**APHIS OFFICIAL (Title):**

Director, Investigative and Enforcement Services

**DATE ISSUED:**

3/24/2015

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:**

(301) 851-2948